Use of EVM in the Cantonment Board Elections

966. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) were used either in the past or during recent period in any Cantonment Board's Members Elections;

(b) if so, the details of Cantonment Boards which used Electronic voting machines and years when the machines were used;

(c) whether Electronic Voting Machines were used in the recently held biggest Secundrabad Cantonment Boards' Members Elections; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not introducing a mandatory rule for all Cantonment Boards to compulsorily introduce Electronic Voting Machines, whenever Elections to Members of Cantonment boards take place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pune and Kirkee Cantonment Boards used Electronic Voting Machines in the elections held on 18th May, 2008.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Cantonment Electoral Rules, 2007 provide for use of either ballot papers or electronic voting machines to conduct the Cantonment Board elections. Rule 36 of Cantonment Electoral Rules 2007 provides for use of Electronic Voting Machines if the Cantonment Board so decides.

Development of skills of widows of soldiers

967. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose special initiatives for development of skills of widows of soldiers who sacrificed their lives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the widows of soldiers are not provided with adequate benefits and they are living in distress; and

(d) if so, the concrete plans formulated by the Government to ensure adequate facilities to widows of defence soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) No new initiative in addition to the existing ones is proposed. Existing initiatives are found to be adequate not warranting further special initiatives.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.